

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LIMA 04580 251940Z

ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 AID-05

NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 /062 W

-----116812 251945Z /73

O R 251855Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 188

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY QUITO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 4580

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIN, PINT, PE

SUBJECT: GOP DEPARTING "AGITATORS"

1. AGUSTO ZIMMERMAN, VELASCO'S FAMOUS SPOKESMAN, CALLED ME THIS MORNING TO ASK IF HE COULD DELIVER A MANIFESTO NOW IN PREPARATION BY WHICH A NUMBER OF PERUVIANS WILL PROTEST THE DEPORTATION EARLIER TODAY OF A GROUP OF INDIVIDUALS. (IF PERUVIAN TRADITION WAS FOLLOWED, THEY WERE SHIPPED OFF TO BUENOS AIRES.) IN ANSWER TO MY QUESTION ZIMMERMAN SAID THAT 14 PERSONS WERE INVOLVED, INCLUDING REPRESENTATIVES OF THE "EXTREME LEFT". HE MENTIONED HUGO BLANCO AND TWO FORMER "ADMIRALS" (PRESUMABLY ARCE LARCO AND FAURA GAIG). I SAID TO KET ME KNOW WHEN THE MANIFESTO IS READY AND THAT I WOULD SEE HIM.

2. COMMENT: OUR INFORMATION ON DETENTIONS AND DEPARTATIONS IS STILL FRAGMENTARY. IN PARTICULAR WE DO NOT YET KNOW THE FATE OF GENERAL (R) LEONIDAS RODRIGUEZ, THE LEADER OF THE PSR. WE DO KNOW THAT THE POLICE SEARCHED
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PAGE 02 LIMA 04580 251940Z

HIS HOUSE (NOW RENTED TO AN AID EMPLOYEE) DURING THE NIGHT.

3. THIS REGRESSION IN WHAT HAD BEEN PERU'S ADMIRABLE PROGRAM TO REACH AN OPEN POLITICAL PROCESS IS DEPLORABLE, BUT NOT SURPRISING IN THE WAKE OF THE GENERAL STRIKE. THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT FEELS ITSELF AGAINST THE WALL, ITS AUTHORITY AND THE DIGNITY OF THE INSTITUTIONS THAT

MAKE IT UP UNDER SEVERE CHALLENGE. MORALES BERMUDEZ, WHO HAS SO PATIENTLY SOUGHT COMPROMISE AND CONCILIATION THIS PAST YEAR OF CRISIS, BUT NOW SO WEAKENED BY THE GOP'S MONTHS OF IRRESOLUTION, COULD SCARCELY TURN ASIDE THE DEMAND FOR TOUGHER MEASURES, EVEN IF HE WISHED TO DO SO. THE PRESSURE FROM BELOW IN THE ARMY, PARTICULARLY FROM THE MIDDLE-GRADE OFFICERS CONCERNED FOR THEIR INSTITUTION'S IMAGE AND STANDING, MUST BE INTENSE.

4. ZIMMERMAN'S CURRENT CONCERN FOR THE RIGHTS OF DISSIDENTS IS RATHER IRONIC. HE PLAYED A KEY ROLE IN THE CONFISCATION OF PERU'S INDEPENDENT DAILY PRESS AND, FROM ALL ACCOUNTS, HAD MORE THAN A LITTLE TO DO WITH SEVERAL DEPORTATIONS UNDER VELASCO.

5. WE WILL REPORT LATER ON THIS SUBJECT AS MORE PRECISE INFORMATION BECOMES AVAILABLE.
SHLAUDEMAM

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NNN

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